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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 HEW-04 AID-05 AF-10
ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 L-03 SP-02 /083 W
----------061023Z 080636 /15
R 060822Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 782
INFO USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNICEF
SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA): PROGRAM
COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

1. SUMMARY: PROGRAM COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROVAL OF REPORT ON URBAN AREAS AND OF ALL PROPOSED PROGRAMS AS SUBMITTED. DISCUSSION GENERALLY LIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVE BUT INCLUDED WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF VEHICLE USE SITUATION AND SOME QUESTIONING OF LOW PRIORITY GIVEN TO LATIN AMERICA AND OF QUALITY OF THAT REPORT. END SUMMARY

2. ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN URBAN AREAS - THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT URBAN AREAS REQUIRED ADDITIONAL ATTENTION BY UNICEF AND THAT IT WAS UNTENABLE TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THSE AREAS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO GREATER IMMIGATION FROM THE RURAL AREAS. US DELEGATION SUPPORTED RECOMMENDATION THAT A FULL REVIEW OF URBAN PROBLEMS WOULD TAKE PLACE AT NEXT BOARD MEETING AND SUGGESTED THIS REVIEW ALSO INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH UNICEF COULD WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS TO HELP IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AMONG THE URBAN POOR. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY MADE SIMILAR POINT AS US AND SECRETARIAT ACCEPTED SUGGESTION, LINKING IT TO APPROPRIATE
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RESPONSE MECHANISMS OF AUTHORITIES.

3. INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM REVOLVED AROUND QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AREAS, RATE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE NEED FOR ATTENTION TO MANAGEMENT, LOGISTICS, AND EVALUATION PROBLEMS. US DELEGATION GENERALLY SUPPORTED PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BUT CALLED

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ATTENTION TO THREE AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION. 1) THE SUBSTANTIAL LAG BETWEEN AUTHORIZED NEW COMMITMENTS AND CALL-FORWARDS 2) NEED FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION BETWEEN UNICEF AND BILATERAL DONOR AGENCIES 3) FUNDING FOR GLOBAL STUDIES OF FIELDS OF UNICEF ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT US REQUEST FOR OVERVIEW AND FUTURE REPORT IN UNICEF. THE SECRETARIAT TOOK NOTES OF THESE COMMENTS AND AGREED TO FOLLOW-UP.

4. EAST ASIA AND PAKISTAN - DISCUSSION NOTED GREAT NEEDS OF THE AREA AND SOME PROGRESS ACHIEVED. DEBATE OVER-SHADOWED BY VIET NAM PROGRAM AND NEEDS OF THAT COUNTRY, WITH MANY SPEAKERS (ESPECIALLY SWEDEN, USSR, POLAND) EXPRESSING EXPLICIT SUPPORT OF VIET NAM PROGRAM. UNICEF COUNTRY REP-RESENTATIVE, COLLIAS NOTED FOOD SHORTAGES IN VIET NAM, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "ALMOST AN EMERGENCY." USDEL INTER ALIA/ NOTED SECRETARIAT'S EARLIER STATEMENT ON INCLUSION OF FAMILY PLANNING IN BASIC SERVICES, AND REQUESTED THAT ALL EXISTING AND NEWLY PROPOSED PROGRAMS BE REVIEWED WITH THIS PRINCIPLE IN MIND.

5. SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA - DISCUSSION DOMINATED BY PROBLEMS OF FAMILY PLANNING, RECRUDESCENCE OF MALARIA AND UNSATIS-FACTORY UTILIZATION OF UNICEF-FUNDED VEHICLES, ESPECIALLY IN INDIA. USDEL INTERVENED INTER ALIA TO ASK THAT SECRETARIAT REPORT TO THE NEXT BOARD ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO DEAL WITH UNDERUTILIZATION OF VEHICLES IN INDIA AND EXPRESSED SPECIAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS.

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6. PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND INDIAN DELEGATE RESPONDED THAT MANY OF VEHICLES OLD BUT ACKNOW-LEDGED PROBLEM. REGIONAL DIRECTOR ADDED THAT NEW EMPHASIS ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WORKERS SUGGESTED GREATER USE OF TWO-WHEELED VEHICLES. WHO ADVISOR TO UNICEF (FAZZI) REPORTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH UNICEF ON THE PROBLEM OF MALARIA AND THAT ANTI-MALARIA STRATEGY SHOULD BE LINKED TO THE PROMOTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

7. EASTERN AFRICA - A VARIETY OF PROGRMS WERE RECOMMENDED-BASIC SERVICES, EDUCATION, NUTRITION, WATER SUPPLY ALONG WITH CONTINUED EMERGENCY DROUGHT AID TO ETHIOPIA AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND MOTHERS IN NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TO THOSE INVOLVED IN RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS. US DELEGATION SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS, TAKING SPECIAL NOTE OF ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP "EARLY WARNING" SYSTEM FOR POTENTIAL DROUGHT AREAS AND IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES, NOTING INVOLVEMENT OF AFSC IN ZAMBIA URBAN PROJECT. AS IN OTHER INTERVENTION, US DELEGATION EMPHASIZED NEED FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION.

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R 060822Z JUN 77
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8. GHANA AND NIGERIA REGION - RECOMMENDATIONS WERE PRIMARILY IN FIELDS OF BASIC SERVICES DEVELOPMENT WITH NUTRITION AND WATER SUPPLY PROMINENT. US DELEGATION SUPPORTED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS BUT NOTED WITH CONCERN THE REPORT THAT "COOPERATION HAS BEEN LACKING BETWEEN GROUPS INVOLVED IN WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS. DIRECTOR ADMITTED PROBLEM BUT STATED THIS WAS NOW BEING RESOLVED.

9. WEST CENTRAL AFRICA - RECOMMENDATIONS MADE HERE EMPHSIZED THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES, EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN EXPANSION OF BASIC SERVICES AND THE UTILIZATION OF INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY. US DELEGATION NOTED AND SUPPORTED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS TAKING SPECIAL NOTE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLUB DES AMIS DE SAHEL WHICH HAS BECOME THE MAJOR CHANNEL FOR EXTERNAL AID, AND THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN UNICEF AND US AIDE SUPPORTED PROJECTS. STRESS WAS PLACED ON IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF UNICEF VEHICLES AND NEED FOR CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON COORDINATION. OTHER COUNTRY INTERVENTIONS GENERALLY SUPPORTED RECOMMENDATION. OF NOTE WAS THE COMMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF FRANCDVTHAT UNICEF WAS AN EVOLVING ORGANIZATION, THAT EVENTS SOMETIMES SEEM TO OVERTAKE IT AND THAT A LOOK AT THE FUTURE OF UNICEF WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. THIS COMMENT SUPPORTED US DELEGATION REQUEST FOR "OVERVIEW AND FUTURE REPORT."
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10. NORTH AFRICA - NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW COMMITMENT WERE RECOMMENDED. CURRENT PROGRAMS ARE BEING REVIEWED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL PLANS AND ARE BEING EXTENDED THROUGH 1978. AREAS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS ARE IN COUNTRY PRODUCTION OF NUTRITIOUS WEANING FOODS, INNOVATIVE PRIMARY AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION. A SUB-AREA OFFICE IS BEING OPENED IN RABAT, MOROCCO WHILE UNICEF PROGRAM IN ALGERIA (CATEGORY III) IS BEING LIMITED TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. MOROCCO WAS THE ONLY INTERVENTION. THEY DESCRIBED COUNTRY PROGRAM AND SUPPORTED UNICEF EMERGENCY AID TO TURKEY - FOOD AND CLOTHING FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE WAS DESCRIBED.

11. EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN - DISCUSSION DOMINATED BY LEBANON CIVIL WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH, URGENCY OF PROMOTING WOMEN'S PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE FUNDS FROM OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF REGION. US DELEGATION STRESSED NEED FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING TO PREVENT NEAR PARALYSIS OF REGIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS AS HAPPENED IN BEIRUT AND URGED CONTRIBUTION OF EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. SECRETARIAT (EGGER) INDICATED THAT EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE BUT THAT UNICEF MUST SHOW GENUINE INTEREST IN HELPING THESE COUNTRIES SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND IN THAT WAY WIN THEIR CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT.

12. THE AMERICAS - PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS WERE LOW FOR THIS REGION WHICH RESULTED IN US DELEGATION INTERVENTION, SUBSEQUENTLY SUPPORTED BY BRAZIL AND COLUMBIA, EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH DECLINING UNICEF SUPPORT TO THE AMERICAS. THIS GENERATED A LONG AND INTENSIVE EFFORT BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO DEFEND THE ACTION. WHILE UNICEF POLICY GIVES PRIORITY TO LDC'S AND MSA'S (FEW ARE IN THE AMERICAS) QUITE CORRECTLY THERE REMAINS DOUBT IN US DELEGATION AS TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNICEF PROGRAM IN THE AMERICAS.

13. TEXTS OF ALL US STATEMENTS IN PROGRAM COMMITTEE BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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